

## **CANDIDATE INFORMATION, CANDIDATE QUESTIONS.**

In our culture, it seems impolite to probe into people's business, to ask pointed questions, to be seen digging up information on someone. But when one chooses to run for election—asking the people of Talbot County to entrust its future to you—every candidate would rightly expect these questions and more. It comes with the territory.

**Section A: Help with meaningful sources of information.** We would like to access as much information about each candidate as possible, and no one knows better where to find that material than the candidate. ***A prompt response with information described in this section is particularly helpful, as it will give TIP time to learn much about your candidacy.*** Feel free to send ahead of Section B responses.

1. Please provide us a link, or copies, or information enabling us to find anything you have written in past years that bears on Talbot County or issues facing Talbot County, such as letters to the editor, reports, articles, communications you may have sent to the Planning Commission or County Council or other elected officials on any issue.
2. Please direct us to any articles or interviews written about you, and/or any recorded audio or video presentations or interviews, including presentations before the Planning Commission or Council on any issue.
3. To what groups or organizations have you given public, or private, presentations about your candidacy?
4. What groups, or organizations, or prominent people, or entities are publicly supporting you? Are there any that have formally endorsed you now or in the past, or that you expect will? Could you provide us with contact information for people there?
5. What organizations or groups have you been active with in recent years around Talbot County (civic, business, fraternal, social, etc.)?
6. Have you served on the Boards of any organizations, local or otherwise?
7. Could you provide us with contact information of a few folks we could talk with who have known you well and are among your supporters?
8. Would you be willing to provide us with contact information of a few people of the opposite political party who you know and respect, and who know you and/or have worked with you in some fashion?
9. Please direct us to any other sources of information we failed to ask about.

**Section B: Questions about some County related issues--Confidential.** TIP will treat the answers to these questions as confidential, and will not copy or distribute your responses to others outside of the TIP Candidate Assessment Committee. The answers are exclusively for the benefit of TIP's panel in evaluating candidacies in the context of our concerns. ***We will be happy to arrange for one or more informal, small-group meetings to discuss these questions if a candidate prefers.***

1. What are the three or four issues currently facing Talbot County that you personally most want to address? Can you rank them?

2. Are there long-term issues that are different than short term issues?
3. Can you tell us what new ideas you want to introduce into County Government?
4. What do you see as the most important personal attributes of a Council person?
5. About the outgoing Council—
  - a. What overall grade would you give that Council?
  - b. In what ways was it deficient or did it go astray, if any?
  - c. In what ways did it do a particularly good job?
  - d. Is there any sitting Council person you would wish to emulate?
6. Regarding Lakeside—
  - a. What is your opinion of that project?
  - b. Should the County just leave future decisions to be worked out by Trappe and MDE?
7. Are the County's STR regulations satisfactory?
  - a. If not, what ideas would you propose?
  - b. Have you had any personal experience with STR's in Talbot County?
8. Do you believe proper standards of accountability are woven into County government?
  - a. How do you see those manifested?
  - b. What changes, if any, might you suggest?
9. Regarding the Office of Law—
  - a. Is the County's arrangement for legal services—private contract—appropriate?
  - b. Who does the County Attorney represent?
  - c. Should any government bodies or agencies have independent Counsel?
10. What is your opinion of the County's existing Comprehensive Plan?
  - a. Would you want to see it materially altered, and if so, in what way generally?
  - b. Can you cite any actions by the Council that you believe undercut the Comp Plan?
  - c. Do you know of any decisions by the Council that reflect a real commitment to the Plan?
  - d. Is it right to press for as much new development as we can attract—jobs, industry, retail, residential?
  - e. Is the development pressure in the past two years or so about right? Too little? Too much?
11. Do you believe the County's Planning Department and its Department of Public Works are adequately funded and adequately staffed?
12. Do you have a view on impact fees? A view on an "adequate public facilities ordinance?" What is the difference?
13. Talbot's incorporated towns have a high degree of independence. Should they plan independently too, and the County just incorporate the work?
14. Regarding the election—
  - a. Are there other candidates with whom you generally agree on most issues?
  - b. Are you, or might you, run as part of a slate?
  - c. Are there any other candidates with whom you think you sharply disagree?